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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the statement of the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30), in which the Council requested me to submit reports on a quarterly basis on the situation in Somalia. The report covers developments since my previous report, of 16 June 2005 (S/2005/392). The main focus of the report is on the efforts undertaken by the international community and, in particular, by my Special Representative, to foster inclusive dialogue among the leaders of the Somali transitional federal institutions. The report also provides an update on the security situation and the humanitarian and development activities of United Nations programmes and agencies in Somalia.

II. Situation within the transitional federal institutions

2. There has been no progress in ameliorating the contention between leaders of the transitional federal institutions on four broad issues: the relocation of the transitional federal institutions, a national security and stabilization plan, national reconciliation and the peace support mission envisaged by the African Union (AU)/Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Tensions between President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed and Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Gedi, based in Jawhar, on the one hand, and the Speaker of Parliament, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, and ministers based in Mogadishu on the other, have been exacerbated during the period under review. My Special Representative for Somalia, François Lonseny Fall, has spared no effort to convince the three leaders to reach the necessary agreements through dialogue so that the transitional federal institutions could begin to function effectively. While they have stated their readiness to do so, they have reneged on a face-to-face meeting thus far (see paras. 8-19 below).

3. On 12 June 2005, President Yusuf attended a meeting of some members of Parliament in Nairobi under the chairmanship of the First Deputy Speaker, Mohamed Omar Dhalha, and announced a two-month recess of Parliament. However, the Speaker, who was not at the meeting, questioned the legitimacy of the meeting and the President's authority to declare a parliamentary recess.

4. It will be recalled that some members of the Transitional Federal Parliament began to return to Somalia in March and April 2005 (see S/2005/329, para. 6). Relocation of the transitional federal institutions began in the middle of June,

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following a farewell ceremony in Nairobi presided over by President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya.

5. A few days later, the Government of Yemen tried to mediate between the President and the Speaker, who were both visiting Sana'a. However, the two leaders failed to reconcile their differences. In the meantime, Prime Minister Gedi, who arrived in Jawhar on 18 June accompanied by several ministers and members of Parliament, has since set up his administration in that town. Other ministers and parliamentarians relocated to their home localities.

6. Despite the fact that the Prime Minister and the Speaker were both in Djibouti in late June, there was no dialogue between them. Upon their return to Jawhar and Mogadishu, respectively, both leaders celebrated, separately, the Somali national day on 1 July. The following day, the Speaker held a meeting with members of Parliament in Mogadishu. A formal session of Parliament could not be held owing to the lack of a quorum.

7. President Yusuf arrived in Boosaaso in "Puntland" on 3 July and on 9 July, met in Gaalkacyo with a delegation of Ministers and officials led by the Prime Minister. Since President Yusuf's arrival in Jawhar on 26 July, the President and Prime Minister have been using that city as a de facto temporary seat of the Transitional Federal Government.

8. On the basis of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 14 July 2005 (S/PRST/2005/32), I instructed my Special Representative to intensify his contacts with the leadership of the transitional federal institutions with a view to fostering an inclusive dialogue. On 1 August, he visited Jawhar and presented President Yusuf and Prime Minister Gedi with a proposal for a road map for dialogue. The road map would address the key issues of (a) an agreement on the safe relocation of the transitional federal institutions; (b) a national security and stabilization plan; (c) modalities for the deployment of an AU/IGAD peace support mission; and (d) national reconciliation.

9. My Special Representative also handed over to the leaders a sequencing chart that had been prepared by representatives of IGAD, AU and the European Union (EU). The chart proposed that, following the successful conclusion of the dialogue, the Council of Ministers and a full session of the Parliament should be called with a view to establishing a national security commission. This proposed commission would draw up the modalities for the deployment of a peace support mission. Prime Minister Gedi informed my Special Representative that his Government was already working on the issues outlined in the road map, especially national security.

10. On 3 August, my Special Representative visited Mogadishu, where he held discussions with the Speaker, ministers and members of Parliament who had relocated to the capital and presented them with a copy of the road map and the sequencing chart. The leaders welcomed the statement by the President of the Security Council of 14 July 2005 and expressed support for my Special Representative's initiative. However, they also used the occasion to voice their concerns that President Yusuf and Prime Minister Gedi might resort to an armed confrontation with them. While committing themselves to dialogue, they emphasized that the agenda, venue and composition of delegations for the talks had to be agreed to in advance.

11. Since early August, President Yusuf, Prime Minister Gedi, the Speaker and the Mogadishu-based leaders have taken unilateral actions, none of which have contributed to the resolution of the differences between them.

12. On 8 August, Prime Minister Gedi announced the composition of committees on national security, economic affairs and social affairs. Although the National Security Committee included the Minister for National Security, Mohamed Kanyare Afrah, one of the Ministers based in Mogadishu, the latter refused to recognize the right of the Transitional Federal Government to establish such committees without consultations, as stipulated in the Transitional Federal Charter.

13. On 13 August, some members of Parliament met in Mogadishu under the chairmanship of the Speaker. In a statement, they announced the establishment of a 59-member committee to restore peace and stability in Mogadishu. They also summoned all members of Parliament to Mogadishu to participate, on 27 August, in the establishment of parliamentary subcommittees. This meeting did not take place, however.

14. On 27 August, Prime Minister Gedi announced to reporters that the Government would start offering oil, gas and mineral concessions to foreign firms in the near future. He called upon foreign companies to avoid dealings with any authorities other than the Transitional Federal Government.

15. Hussein Aidid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, returned to Mogadishu on 14 August after an absence of over four years. He announced that he would try to help efforts to reconcile differences within the transitional federal institutions. Before returning to Mogadishu, he called on my Special Representative, who encouraged him to use all possible means to foster dialogue within the transitional federal institutions.

16. In a joint effort, my Special Representative and the Minister for Regional Cooperation and East African Affairs of Kenya secured the agreement of both the Prime Minister and the Speaker to attend a meeting on 19 August in Nairobi. However, the Speaker later informed my Special Representative that he would not attend because the Prime Minister's statement said that he would meet the Speaker only if the latter was ready to cooperate with his Government. Prime Minister Gedi announced at a press conference on the same day that his Government was open for dialogue within the transitional federal institutions.

17. On his part, the Speaker gave an undertaking to my Special Representative not to use any meeting of members of Parliament in Mogadishu to undermine the prospects for dialogue within the transitional federal institutions. In a meeting with members of the international community on 26 August, he reiterated his willingness to enter into dialogue within the framework of the transitional federal institutions and stressed the need to respect the Transitional Federal Charter.

18. On 13 September, Prime Minister Gedi addressed a letter to ministers of the Transitional Federal Government, informing them of his intention, after consultations, to begin holding meetings of the Council of Ministers in Mogadishu. My Special Representative immediately welcomed the initiative and expressed the hope that the meetings would be preceded by consultations and followed by a full session of Parliament, in accordance with the Transitional Federal Charter.

19. The Presidency of the EU issued a statement on 19 September in support of Prime Minister Gedi's initiative. EU urged the Mogadishu-based ministers to respond positively as it was an important step towards resolving outstanding issues and called upon all parties to refrain from making military preparations and inflammatory statements and to commit themselves to the peaceful resolution of their differences through inclusive dialogue. EU stressed that the creation of any national Somali military force should take place in the framework of a national security and stabilization plan and in line with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 14 July 2005. EU also expressed support for my Special Representative's statement of 8 September underlining that there could be no military solution to the problems facing the transitional federal institutions.

III. Activities of the United Nations and the international community

20. Representatives of the international community in Nairobi continued to meet almost every week throughout the reporting period in support of the initiative of my Special Representative to foster inclusive dialogue within the framework of the transitional federal institutions.

21. At its twenty-fifth meeting, held on 12 June, the IGAD Council of Ministers reviewed the relocation of the transitional federal institutions to Somalia and reinstated the IGAD Facilitation Committee on Somalia. My Special Representative briefed the Ministers and emphasized the need for dialogue within the transitional federal institutions.

22. Following the visits of my Special Representative to Mogadishu and Jawhar on 1 and 3 August, respectively, a delegation from the European Commission also visited both cities and urged the two sides to begin a meaningful dialogue. Delegations from the Government of Kenya, AU and the donor community also visited Jawhar on 4 August, where a meeting of the Joint Planning Committee was held with the Transitional Federal Government.

23. Since his arrival in Nairobi on 27 May 2005, my Special Representative has impressed upon leaders in the subregion and others the need to have a coordinated approach towards Somali leaders and to urge them to engage in dialogue and refrain from military action for the resolution of the differences within the transitional federal institutions. On 10 June, he met in Kampala with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, and on 29 June he held talks with President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti and the Executive Secretary of IGAD in Djibouti.

24. On 24 June, he travelled to Addis Ababa, where he had discussions with State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tekeda Alemu, AU Chairman Alpha Oumar Konaré and AU Peace and Security Commissioner, Said Djinnit. He returned to Addis Ababa on 29 August for meetings with Chairman Konaré and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi. He emphasized the need to foster dialogue within the transitional federal institutions and encouraged his interlocutors to use their influence towards that end.

25. On 27 August, my Special Representative visited Cairo, at the invitation of the Government of Egypt, and held talks with Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Amre Moussa. He briefed his

interlocutors on developments in Somalia and on his initiative to foster an inclusive dialogue. Foreign Minister Gheit informed my Special Representative of his Government's readiness to undertake an initiative in support of dialogue within the transitional federal institutions.

26. Subsequent to his travels in the subregion, my Special Representative decided to enlist the support of European Governments to encourage dialogue within the transitional federal institutions, and engage them in the need for the international community to speak with one voice on this issue. He held talks with officials of Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in London and Stockholm, and with EU officials in Brussels. My Special Representative stressed the need for a functional parliament as essential for the legitimacy of the Transitional Federal Government.

27. On 29 August, Prime Minister Gedi met with the Heads of Mission of EU countries in Nairobi and informed them of his proposal to resolve the differences within the transitional federal institutions at three levels: the leadership (President, Prime Minister and Speaker); the Cabinet (Ministers); and Parliament. The Heads of Mission took the opportunity to reaffirm their support for my Special Representative's initiative and the statement of the President of the Security Council of 14 July. They welcomed the Prime Minister's intention to resolve the differences within the transitional federal institutions and emphasized that if the transitional federal institutions were able to resolve their differences through dialogue, more financial assistance would be forthcoming from their countries.

28. Six projects will be funded for implementation during 2005 and 2006 under the United Nations Trust Fund for Peacebuilding in Somalia. They include two projects each in support of (a) reconciliation: the establishment of a national reconciliation commission and dialogues for peace and reconciliation between different regions of Somalia; (b) rule of law and state-building: reconstitution and re-activation of the judiciary system and a seminar on federalism and constitutional affairs; and (c) security and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration: the establishment of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration commission and the setting up of youth service centres for skills development and employment creation in Mogadishu, "Puntland" and "Somaliland".

29. On 5 September, Kenya and Somalia signed an agreement on technical and economic cooperation, covering the education, health and security sectors. The agreement was signed in Nairobi by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries in the presence of Prime Minister Gedi. On 7 September, AU announced the opening of its liaison office in Jawhar, through which it would channel its support to Somalia.

IV. Developments inside Somalia

30. In an interview with the BBC on 6 July, President Yusuf announced the creation of a Somali national army to be assembled from various regions of Somalia. Soon thereafter, he said that he had begun to raise a new army. The announcement raised concerns among the leaders based in Mogadishu, prompting some of them to threaten pre-emptive attacks against Jawhar if President Yusuf and his supporters marched on the capital.

31. On 10 August, President Yusuf flew from Jawhar to Gode and Mustahil in the Somali-inhabited Region 5 of Ethiopia, with the stated purpose of promoting local reconciliation between ethnic Somali clans living in the border region. However, some leaders in Mogadishu accused the President of going to Ethiopian territory to acquire weapons and troops for his future activities in Somalia. President Yusuf refuted this accusation as baseless.

32. In early September, troops loyal to President Yusuf arrived in Jawhar. The Mogadishu-based leaders, in response, also deployed troops from Mogadishu in the direction of Jawhar. In a press release issued on 7 September on behalf of the Mogadishu-based leaders, the troop movements in Jawhar were portrayed as creating a "state of war". The press release further warned all humanitarian agencies and diplomats currently in Jawhar to suspend their presence in the area and cautioned all aircraft to cease landing in Jawhar. On 8 September, the United Nations relocated its international humanitarian personnel out of Jawhar as a precautionary measure (see para. 46 below), a move criticized by President Yusuf.

33. Meanwhile, on 26 June, in "Somaliland", speaking on the occasion of its forty-fifth anniversary of independence from the United Kingdom, "President" Dahir Riyale Kahin expressed optimism for "Somaliland" gaining international recognition. He also reaffirmed his intention to hold parliamentary elections in mid-September, as planned. On 10 August, in a presidential decree, he postponed the parliamentary elections by two weeks, to 29 September, at the request of the "Somaliland" electoral commission.

34. In preparation for that election, print and broadcast editors in "Somaliland" drafted a new code of conduct to guide their coverage of the upcoming elections. The new code calls for the news media to adhere to impartial reporting of the election.

V. The role of women's groups

35. There are many women's advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations across Somalia, although it is difficult to estimate the exact number in the absence of a systematic national registration system. In the absence of an effective central government, these groups play a vital role in providing basic social services and literacy and vocational training to Somalis. Most of the funding for their programmes comes from United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. There are some key women's umbrella organizations with which the United Nations works on a regular basis. They include: Negaad, in north-western Somalia; We are Women Activists in north-eastern Somalia; Coalition of Grass-roots Women's Organizations; Women's Development Organization and Save Somali Women and Children in southern and central Somalia.

36. Women's groups, by and large, have not formed, as yet, an effective political organization to further their rights and issues. This is a by-product of the political bargaining at the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference based largely on the power of militia leaders and their clan associations. Their role is further hampered by the current political paralysis within the transitional federal institutions and the lack of sufficient funds available to the Transitional Federal Government to support their activities.

37. There are 23 women members of Parliament. The Association of West European Parliamentarians for Africa conducted a workshop for them in 2004 in parliamentary conduct and procedures and on their role and responsibilities as members of Parliament. Nevertheless, the effective realization of their potential political role is being undermined by the continuing differences within the transitional federal institutions.

38. Women's groups, along with other civil society and business groups, have played a prominent role in initiating and supporting pre-disarmament encampments in Mogadishu. They have also been successful in convincing militia leaders in both Mogadishu and Kismayo to dismantle a large number of checkpoints and improve the security environment in those cities to some degree.

39. Progress has also been made in "Somaliland", where the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs is functioning and has been funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to develop a gender action plan. The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs in "Puntland" has been given similar funding by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and it has also developed a gender action plan. Furthermore, the staff are being trained on issues related to human rights and HIV/AIDS.

40. United Nations agencies and partners have developed a gender-based violence and psychosocial counselling training manual and conducted trainings in Hargeysa and Boosaaso for participants from settlements for internally displaced persons in Hargeysa and representatives of women's organizations from "Puntland", "Somaliland" and south Somalia. This activity was undertaken in collaboration with Negaad. Participants have now provided psychosocial support and HIV/AIDS training to over 592 women in internally displaced persons camps.

41. The United Nations also provided training for the Women's Media Association to enable them to generate public awareness on human rights and HIV/AIDS. Women's organizations are now collecting and disseminating information on violations of women's human rights. They are also lobbying with the authorities to establish mechanisms for the protection of the rights of women living with HIV/AIDS, as such individuals are stigmatized and isolated by their families and communities. The United Nations has also provided training in media and information communication technology to women journalists and human rights workers in Mogadishu, "Puntland" and "Somaliland".

VI. Security

42. Insecurity remains a significant problem for aid agencies in much of the country. There has been a number of reports of military preparations, activities and movements that are being linked with the continuing differences within the transitional federal institutions. According to reports, the United Nations arms embargo continues to be violated, and the inflow of weapons into the country has increased. In addition, particularly in the central and southern parts of Somalia, tensions and clashes between and within clans, mostly over water, grazing, and land disputes, result in death and injury and make humanitarian access difficult.

43. Mogadishu continues to remain insecure in spite of unprecedented efforts to take militiamen off its streets. At least two camps have been set up in the capital

which are housing over 2,000 militiamen from various clans inside the city. In addition, over 100 "technicals", or battlewagons, have been cantoned, as part of a pre-disarmament effort. This has been carried out under pressure from the business community and civil society, in particular women's groups, and it is they who have largely borne the costs of this process. Substantial financial resources from the Hawiye diaspora have assisted in this process, but it is unlikely that the assistance in support of encampment efforts can be sustained over a long period of time. In addition, after considerable pressure from civil society, several checkpoints in the city have been dismantled. In spite of such efforts, there are still concerns about security in Mogadishu, with the presence of several factional militias as well as those which are either freelance or associated with businessmen and the sharia courts. The presence of extremist elements and their alleged activities have also been a matter of concern. The reporting period has seen a number of killings and politically-linked assassinations in Mogadishu.

44. On 5 June, a Somali reporter, Duniya Muhyadin Nur, working for the Horn Afrik Radio station in Mogadishu, was killed at a checkpoint in Mogadishu by a militiaman while she was trying to cover protests by a group of transporters against checkpoints in the city. In the early morning of 11 July, unknown gunmen broke into the house of Abdul Qadir Yahya, a long-standing peace activist and a senior member of the Center for Research and Dialogue, and assassinated him. A day later, the head of the militias of one of the sharia courts was killed in an ambush. On 30 July, three assassinations were reported in Mogadishu, including a former Colonel in the police intelligence and an imam of a mosque. On 31 August, unknown gunmen assassinated Daqare Omar Jess, the brother of Ahmed Omar Jess, a prominent faction leader.

45. After the arrival of troops loyal to President Yusuf and their deployment just south of Jawhar, in early September reports followed that the Commerce Minister, Muse Sudi Yallahow, had sent a number of "technicals" to strengthen his forces in Balad, south of Jawhar. There are also reports that Adam Hashi Ayro, a commander who was recently appointed head of the sharia courts militia in Mogadishu, sent a number of his "technicals" to an unspecified location west of Jawhar.

46. Following the developments cited in paragraph 32, all international United Nations staff based in Jawhar were relocated safely out of the city on 8 September. Seven were flown to Nairobi while another six were relocated to Wajid. National staff continued to come to work until 12 September, when Mohamed-Dhere, the Governor of the Middle Shabele region and the faction leader controlling Jawhar, ordered the effective shut-down of the offices of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Jawhar. On 10 September, a clash between his militia and unidentified gunmen left two people dead in Mir Taqwo, north of Jawhar. This was connected to the faction leader's attempts to assert his authority in the region and levy taxes.

47. The security situation in Kismayo has improved during the period under review. According to reports, checkpoints have been dismantled under pressure from civil society. In addition, a broader agreement among the clans in Kismayo and the Juba Valley is apparently being sought to enhance security in the region. In this regard, a reconciliation effort was launched in Brava between Mogadishu and Kismayo in early September, involving Barre Hirale, other leaders of the Juba Valley Alliance led by Yusuf Mire Serar and representatives of the Mogadishu-based faction leader, Indha-aade, and those of General Mohamed Hersi "Morgan". The

aim of the effort was to improve security in the region, strengthen the Juba Valley Alliance and reconcile General "Morgan" and the Alliance, who have been fighting over territories in the Juba Valley for a number of years.

48. On 21 July, fighting erupted in Gaalkacyo in the ongoing dispute between two sub-sub-clans of the Omar Mahamud sub-clan of the Majerteen. Although the fighting subsided, there were unconfirmed reports of several casualties.

49. On 7 September, Mohamed Ibrahim Habsade, the faction leader controlling Baidoa, reportedly reached an understanding with his rival, Mohamed Nur Shattigudud, who also holds the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture, to resolve their differences peacefully. The understanding was apparently brokered by Digil-Mirifle clan elders who were concerned that the differences between the two leaders were causing serious rifts within the clan.

50. Inter- and intra-clan fighting has accounted for much of the violence in central and southern Somalia during the reporting period. In the Hiraan region in central Somalia, heavy fighting on 7 and 8 June, between the Galje'el and Jajele sub-clans of Hawiye over land and water on the western side of Beletweyne led to the reported deaths of 36 people and injuries to 70 people. In the Bakool region, also in central Somalia, clashes on 10 and 11 June between militiamen from the Hadamo and Ogaden clans in the El-Barde area resulted in at least 4 deaths and injuries to 10 people. On 15 June, at least 16 people were killed and 20 others injured in fighting between rival militias over land and pasture rights in the same area. During the week of 19 to 26 June in the Bay region, about 10 persons were killed and 9 others were wounded in fighting between the Digil-Mirifle sub-clans in the area, including the Leysan, Luway and Yantar. The fighting was related mainly to land and water disputes. On 13 August, fighting took place in Idale between the Yantar and Huber sub-clans of the Digil-Mirifle over control of the village and water and grazing rights, which resulted in 12 deaths. A week later the elders of the Digil-Mirifle intervened to mediate an end to the fighting.

51. In the Gedo region in southern Somalia, fighting from 5 to 11 June near the border with Kenya between the Garre and the Marehan clans over the control of Elwak town led to 13 reported deaths. The town has been contested by the two clans over the past six months. Fighting was again reported on 22 and 23 July in Elwak between the same clans, resulting in 32 deaths and injuries to over 60 persons. Clan elders and the Kenyan authorities intervened in mid-August to help resolve the dispute. Efforts aimed at reconciliation between the two sides continued into the month of September.

52. There have been no significant incidents between "Somaliland' and "Puntland" in the disputed regions of Sanaag and Sool in past months, although there still appears to be no progress towards a political solution. The issue of the exchange of prisoners captured in the conflict in the disputed regions in 2004 is being resolved through the facilitation of the Independent Expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Somalia.

VII. Humanitarian situation

53. The humanitarian situation in Somalia continues to be affected by the security situation in the country and by climatic conditions. According to a recent assessment, the number of people in need of urgent assistance has increased since February 2005, with the most critical communities in need of assistance now being in southern Somalia.

54. Between 920,000 and 950,000 people, including 370,000 to 400,000 internally displaced persons, are in need of urgent assistance at least until early 2006. According to a recently released report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), around 345,000 people are in a state of livelihood crisis, while 200,000 are experiencing a humanitarian emergency. Most of those communities are in southern Somalia, where about 169,000 people in Gedo, Bakool, Middle and Lower Juba are in a state of humanitarian emergency. The Juba Valley in particular continues to be beset by high malnutrition (above 20 per cent in some areas) and mortality rates, while Gedo is beset by chronic food insecurity. During the recent consultations on the Consolidated Appeal for Somalia, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations agreed to give priority to those communities in 2006.

55. More than three years of drought have come to an end in the northern and central regions due to two good consecutive rainy seasons (*deyr* 2004-2005 and *gu* 2005). This has aided the recovery of pastoral livelihoods, and the area is no longer in a humanitarian emergency phase. Still, in the northern and central regions, 254,000 people remain in an acute livelihood crisis. It will take a considerable amount of time before full recovery is achieved given the loss of livestock, levels of indebtedness and severe environmental depletion caused by the prolonged drought. In the central regions, unresolved conflicts also continue to affect livelihoods and delay recovery.

56. Somalia continues to be vulnerable to floods. Thousands of households were affected during the flooding that occurred in May and June 2005 due to high flows from the Ethiopian catchments of the Shabelle and Juba rivers. Aid agencies mobilized a response, yet the unusual *gu* flows highlighted the need for well-developed early warning and emergency preparedness plans. Efforts are being made, in collaboration with affected communities and local authorities to update the inter-agency action plan for flood forecasting, preparedness and response for the Juba and Shabelle Rivers in Somalia. It is anticipated that the inter-agency action plan will be updated in time for the 2005-2006 *deyr* season, when flooding usually occurs.

57. Relative stability in the northern zones has continued to facilitate access in most regions, with the exception of the contested Sool and Sanaag regions. In recent months, the House of Elders (*Guurti*) has discussed the organization of a peace conference in the Sool region, but no progress has yet been made. Any heightened tension in this area could further impede access to needy populations.

58. In southern and central Somalia, while the prevailing security conditions continued to negatively impact humanitarian access in most regions, recent improvements in specific areas bode well for the reopening of those areas to humanitarian activities. It is expected that with security improvements in Kismayo, there will be a gradual resumption of humanitarian activities in the district, particularly in reaching around 15,000 internally displaced persons in the town of

Kismayo and the riverine communities hit by the 2005 *gu* floods. Many of the improvements stem from localized reconciliation efforts and pressure from civil society on leaders to ensure not only a more secure environment but also better social services and more accountability. However, in Gedo, continued clashes between the Garre and Marehan prevented humanitarian organizations from reaching and providing assistance to the estimated 15,000 persons displaced by the fighting.

59. The protective environment in Somalia, particularly in the southern and central areas, where the bulk of 370,000 to 400,000 internally displaced persons reside is still very weak. During the reporting period, the United Nations country team finalized a joint strategic framework to enhance the protection of internally displaced persons, returnees and other vulnerable populations, improve their current living conditions and foster durable solutions.

60. In Somalia, tsunami-related activities are now fully in the rehabilitation/recovery phase. Preparations are under way for an integrated development project along the northern coast to provide shelter to over 2,400 people living in the tsunami-affected town of Hafun. The project, which will help bring basic social services and economic development to the town, will be implemented by United Nations agencies and partners undertaking water and sanitation, rehabilitation of schools, infrastructure and health activities. As the resumption of the fishing season draws closer, discussions are under way with the "Puntland" fisheries authorities to strengthen the sector so as to maximize productivity.

VIII. Operational activities to promote peace

Governance

61. The Somalia emergency budgetary support project for the Transitional Federal Government began in April 2005 as a coordinated funding mechanism to provide budgetary support to the transitional federal institutions, strengthen their capacities and assist their relocation into Somalia. A total of 275 members of Parliament, along with more than 400 other officials, have been relocated back to Somalia. The project has also rehabilitated and equipped offices and has provided support to internal transportation and logistical support to the Transitional Federal Government.

62. The Civil Service Institute opened in Hargeysa in August 2005. The Institute is a public-private partnership, whose main partners include the Civil Service Commission of "Somaliland" and the University of Hargeysa. UNDP is facilitating the partnership process and is providing technical and budgetary support to the new Institute. While its main focus will be on developing the capacity of the civil service in areas such as management, planning, office skills and accounting, private companies and non-governmental organizations will also be able to contract training services for their staff.

63. The qualified expatriate Somali technical support project established to engage the Somali diaspora in the rebuilding of the country has increased the number of Somalis coming home to assist for short periods of time. The sectors of involvement include governance and manufacturing, among others. During 2005, 15 Somalis committed themselves to assisting organizations in "Somaliland", "Puntland" and South/Central Somalia in the education, agriculture and health sectors. Of the 15

participants, 4 are female. So far, two assistance projects have been completed in education and health.

Joint needs assessment

64. The concept note for the Somali joint needs assessment is now finalized and has been accepted by Somali stakeholders, including the Somali Transitional Federal Government. The concept note outlines the way forward for the Somali joint needs assessment and includes substantial participation by Somalis in the exercise, as both government and zonal counterparts and international experts from the Somali diaspora. The coordination structure and mechanisms of participation in the joint needs assessment process are now in place. They include a secretariat, an operational oversight committee called the coordination support group, and a strategic oversight committee called the joint planning committee. Work is currently under way in assembling the joint needs assessment teams made up of cluster leaders and sub-cluster experts from the United Nations, the World Bank, and international experts, including members of the Somalia diaspora and Somali counterparts. Further information can be found on the joint needs assessment website http://somali-jna.org.

Human rights

65. In August 2005, the Independent Expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Somalia undertook his fifth fact-finding mission to the region. He was encouraged by the increasingly visible role played by civil society in advocating for human rights. He strongly condemned the assassination of human rights defenders and journalists during 2005 (see para. 44 above). Among the continuing issues of concern, the Independent Expert highlighted: the conditions of internally displaced persons and minority groups; the exploitation of the Somali coastline, in particular, unregulated fishing activities by foreign companies and human trafficking, which affects thousands of individuals every year; prison conditions; oppression of peace activists and journalists; measures taken by some countries to repatriate Somali asylum-seekers; and conflict related detainees between "Puntland" and "Somaliland". The Independent Expert was encouraged to hear of the intention of the Transitional Federal Government to establish an independent human rights commission.

Rule of law

66. The United Nations Rule of Law and Security Programme has been providing technical and financial support for a law enforcement seminar and training workshop for the Somali Police Force in Kampala, since August 2005. The workshop brings together former police personnel from across the country in order to develop a road map to guide the rebuilding of the civilian police force. As a first step towards demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, the Programme is also supporting demobilization efforts in and around Mogadishu through a pilot initiative entitled "Support for peacebuilding and demilitarization" (see paras. 38 and 43 above).

67. Donors are providing support for the United Nations to facilitate the participation of the Transitional Federal Government in the meeting of the Standing Committees of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,

Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. This is a preliminary step in the accession process to becoming a full signatory of the Ottawa Treaty. The activity is part of an ongoing dialogue between the United Nations Rule of Law and Security Programme and the Transitional Federal Government on mine-related issues and support to processes that will ensure it is aware of, and could consider participating in, relevant international legal instruments.

68. In July 2005, phase 1 of the construction of the Armo Police Training Academy in "Puntland" was completed. The first cohort is expected to begin training in October 2005. The academy will be an important institution to implement the new training syllabus and support the implementation of the road map for the rebuilding of the civilian police force. The local community has contributed substantially to the construction of the academy. Once completed, the academy is expected to provide high-quality training to support the eventual creation of a nationwide civilian police force.

69. The rehabilitation of a prison in Berbera was completed in July 2005. The facility is the first of its kind, and features a proper infirmary for inmates. The United Nations has provided support for the training of the custodial staff, which was consistent with international human rights standards, on the treatment of detainees.

70. A legal clinic support project at the University of Hargeysa has achieved significant results in reducing the waiting period of remanded individuals in "Somaliland". The legal clinic also provides free legal representation for individuals who are financially disadvantaged.

Water and sanitation

71. A sustainable water supply system in the tsunami-affected town of Hafun is under construction. This will increase the coping capacity of the community in future emergency situations. Efforts towards preventing cholera outbreaks in Mogadishu, including the chlorination of water supplies and close collaboration with the health sector, have been ongoing. No cholera outbreaks have taken place in 2005.

72. Two major water and sanitation programmes are under way. A rural water programme for central and southern Somalia started in March 2005, and a countrywide urban water and sanitation programme began in July. The rural programme aims to achieve permanent improvement of access to water through improved technologies and strengthened social mobilization. The urban water programme aims to build on public-private partnership management models for town water systems. It will be closely integrated with other urban development activities.

Health

73. The United Nations organized a six-week data management course which ended in June 2005 in collaboration with the Higher Institute of Public Health in Alexandria, Egypt for 15 Somali health workers from different parts of the country who are responsible for disease surveillance and monitoring. The participants received training in advanced data management and analytical skills. It is hoped that

the skills and knowledge they acquired will improve the quality and utility of surveillance information generated.

74. A national malaria control strategy is under way, and 80,000 insecticide-treated nets have been delivered to hyper-endemic areas with further consignments set to arrive. Insecticide-treated nets will be distributed to pregnant women during the upcoming maternal and neonatal tetanus campaign. New malaria diagnosis and treatment guidelines are being introduced that initiate artemesinin-based combination therapy. Information, education and communication materials have been developed to support those activities.

75. In an effort to ensure that polio cases in countries neighbouring Somalia do not cross the border, additional national immunization days have taken place using Monovalent oral polio vaccine (OPV) to pre-empt reintroduction of the polio virus. Unfortunately, despite those efforts, the re-emergence in Mogadishu of the wild polio virus P1 will call for more vigorous eradication activities with the support of the international community.

HIV/AIDS

76. In June 2005, a joint United Nations mission on HIV/AIDS travelled to "Somaliland" for the launch of the first anti-retroviral therapy project in Hargeysa, which is being supported by several United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. Most importantly, it has been endorsed by the "Somaliland" authorities. Led by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations agencies and partners are developing a United Nations Implementation Support Plan for HIV/AIDS in Somalia that ensures a coordinated and effective response to the disease.

77. A leadership advocacy toolkit for community and religious leaders is being used to train religious and community leaders from all regions of Somalia. The toolkit references the Koran in fighting stigma and discrimination and advocates for HIV/AIDS awareness and care. Community leaders and local non-governmental organizations were given training on basic counselling skills in order to develop a cadre of psychosocial support givers in communities. Simultaneously, a counselling needs assessment was conducted in all three regions to establish the level of awareness of services and needs.

Education

78. The 2004-2005 annual primary school survey is under way. The survey should be ready for distribution in November 2005. Related to this activity, new education management and information tools have been introduced to 120 master trainers/mentors across all regions, which will increase local capacities in educational data management.

79. An enrolment and advocacy drive continues across the three regions, with a special focus on girls and children in settlements for internally displaced persons. Within a period of six months, approximately 100,000 new children were enrolled to begin school in September. This enrolment drive involved partnerships with educational authorities, communities and schoolchildren themselves. Primary alternative education centres have been established throughout the country with a total of 60,000 students, including children and youths.

80. Since July 2005, mentor and teacher training campaigns have been initiated, targeting 120 mentors and approximately 9,000 teachers across the country. The mentors are a core group of Somali trainers who have been trained in the essentials of pedagogy and educational management.

Child protection and youth

81. During the reporting period, three of the United Nations local partners in Somalia have trained and recruited community-based child protection advocates and are now actively working with vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to assist in finding solutions to such problems. The United Nations is supporting a training exchange for Somali psychosocial workers, enabling them to visit psychosocial support projects in Uganda as a means of capacity development and to undertake psychosocial support and care interventions at the community level.

82. In a follow-up to Security Council resolutions on children affected by armed conflict, in particular resolution 1612 (2005), a strong partnership has been established between the United Nations and the non-governmental organization NOVIB Somalia to initiate community-based reporting and monitoring on child rights and child protection violations.

83. During the reporting period, 33 youth peer educators underwent training for trainers in Hargeysa. They will train youth groups in organizational development and in youth peer skills in their home communities.

IX. Observations

84. Some progress has been made in the peace process in Somalia, particularly with the formation and return of the transitional federal institutions back to the country. However, the peace process remains fragile, and much remains to be done in overcoming the current political impasse through dialogue. The effective functioning of the transitional federal institutions is important and urgent. It is unfortunate that, one year after the conclusion of the Somali National Reconciliation Conference, the leaders of those institutions are still assuming rigid positions, even against entering into a dialogue, instead of tackling the more pressing issues of a national security plan, reconciliation and improvement of the quality of life of the Somali people.

85. Unless the differences within the transitional federal institutions are addressed, the current political impasse could grow into deeper divisions and undermine the very institutions that the people of Somalia so ardently desire and the international community and the United Nations are willing to support.

86. I am deeply concerned that the political tensions between the leaders of the transitional federal institutions have given rise to military preparations on their part. There are persistent reports of increased violations of the arms embargo. I call on the Somali leaders and countries of the region, in particular, not to be part of an exacerbation in political and military tensions. The threat of violence must be averted by all concerned. I once again urge the Somali leaders to enter into a comprehensive ceasefire agreement.

87. I am compelled to draw attention to the events outlined in paragraphs 32 and 44 to 46 above that forced the relocation of international United Nations staff from Jawhar in early September. The people of Somalia need and want the assistance of international workers and their Somali partners who are implementing much needed programmes in the country. Tangible improvement in the security situation on the ground is an essential responsibility of the Somali leaders.

88. I welcome the expressed willingness of the Speaker of Parliament, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden, to enter into dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations. I equally welcome the public statements of Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Gedi in favour of dialogue within the framework of the transitional federal institutions. His initiative to hold consultations that are to lead to cabinet meetings in Mogadishu could open the road to agreement on outstanding issues. I urge all Somali leaders to undertake the necessary steps towards reconciling their differences.

89. The Somali leaders and delegates who had gathered in Nairobi for over two years at the Somali National Reconciliation Conference and adopted the Transitional Federal Charter attached great importance to the role of Parliament. I urge them and the international community to help build the capacity of the Somali transitional institutions, including the Transitional Federal Government, the Parliament and the judiciary. An active and robust Parliament could serve as a national forum of debate and reconciliation and is essential for the realization of a healthy democratic order in Somalia. Likewise, the functioning of an independent judiciary is urgently needed for the restoration of law and order and the protection of human rights in Somalia.

90. I express my appreciation to the neighbouring countries, IGAD, AU, the League of Arab States, EU and concerned Member States for their keen interest and persistent efforts in support of the peace process in Somalia. I urge them to use their influence and leverage to ensure that the transitional federal institutions resolve their differences, through an inclusive dialogue, and to move ahead on the key issues of security and national reconciliation.

91. I would like to use this opportunity to call on all members of the international community to support the efforts of my Special Representative, François Lonseny Fall, to bring about an inclusive dialogue among the leaders of the transitional federal institutions aimed at achieving peace, reconciliation and development in Somalia. However, I once again underline that the sustained support of the international community, speaking with one voice, to encourage the Somali leaders to effectively begin dialogue would be crucial in overcoming the current impasse.

92. I commend the United Nations programmes and agencies and their partners for continuing to provide humanitarian assistance and undertake innovative and much needed operational activities in support of reconstruction and rehabilitation in Somalia. I call on all donors to support such programmes generously.